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Livestock Diseases -1953

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remember all those hair balls on barnyard fences last February and March? Both horn flies and stable flies are expected to be more abundant in 1953. Horseflies will be favored should we have a wet spring.

Garden, Shade Tree Pests: Red spider mites also seem to be on the increase. Damage to home plantings and evergreen windbreaks would be intensified by dry weather in 1953. Most kinds of plant lice would be favored by a wet spring. The Mexican bean beetle and spittle bugs will be found mainly in eastern counties, next to the Mississippi. The apple maggot is found mainly in the northern four tiers of counties. Cankerworms, European elm scale and cottony maple scale probably will be common.

Rodents: Numbers of pocket gophers are increasing. Rats and mice are favored by abundant corn, but new methods of control have cut their numbers in many areas.

Houseflies: This insect too is on the increase—mainly because of poor sanitary practices and the development of DDT-resistant flies in some localities.

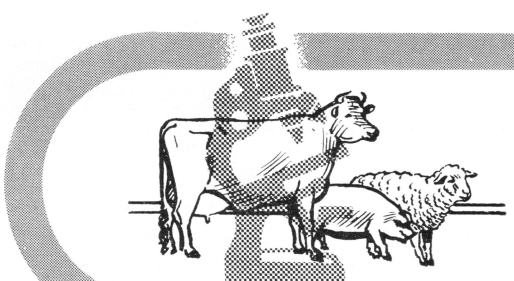
Insecticides, Equipment

The insecticide supply will be good in 1953 except for sulfur. There should be plenty of DDT, toxaphene, aldrin, chlordane, BHC and lindane available for all needs. Rotenone and nicotine supplies are normal, and sufficient activated pyrethrins will be available.

Plenty of sprayers and other equipment are available, but prices are high. The trend is toward trailer-mounted sprayers.

Prospects for Some Common Field Crop Insects in 1953 as Influenced by Weather Of the Early Growing Season.

Insect	Wet, cool spring	Normal spring	Dry spring
Cutworms	Heavy in corn on sod	Heavy in bottomland	Trouble doubtful
Sod webworms	Heavy in corn on sod	Heavy in local areas	Trouble doubtful
Wireworms	Severe in local areas	Heavy in some low areas	Light (in individual fields only)
Rootworms	On the increase	On the increase	About like 1952
Chinch bugs	Trouble very doubtful	Local areas in southern part of state	Locally heavy in south 3rd of state
Grasshoppers	Trouble doubtful	Heavy in local areas	Moderate to severe
Corn borers	First brood, maybe; second brood buildup	First brood, heavy; second brood, severe	First brood, heavy; second brood, maybe



Livestock Diseases - 1953

Potential disease threats are many. Although the animal disease picture for Iowa is reasonably bright, we must continue working to control some well-known diseases as well as to be on the lookout for new diseases.

by John B. Herrick

LIVESTOCK men saw a new disease hit Iowa in 1952—vesicular exanthema. It hit the swine industry in Iowa for the first time; it was recognized and eradicated within a few weeks. Anthrax, uncommon though not new, hit many herds during the year. Leptospirosis, another rather uncommon disease in domestic livestock, has been diagnosed in Iowa cattle and swine herds in recent months.

Now many of us are wondering what 1953 holds for us. In general, the picture in Iowa is reasonably bright. But we must continue working to control or eradicate some well-known diseases as well as to be on the lookout for new ones. We're aware of the threat hoof and mouth disease presented on our borders. Up to now, it hasn't entered the United States; we hope it never will.

In 1953 . . .

Diseases that will demand the attention of Iowa livestock producers in 1953 are many. In the swine field, hog cholera, swine erysipelas and infectious rhinitis are the three main threats. They can be handled by immunization or the purchase of clean stock. We'll have to be on watch for vesicular exanthema outbreaks again this year. Swine brucellosis is calling for more attention in that more and more

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swine producers are demanding boars from Bang's-free herds. Possible legislation may give us some help in controlling this disease.

Brucellosis will get much emphasis for its control and possible eradication. Educational programs, legislation and farmer interest will help get this job rolling in '53. This disease demands the attention of both producers and consumers to aid in its eradication. Selfish interests must be overcome and be replaced by a genuine willingness to eradicate brucellosis if it is to be removed as a disease affecting our livestock and our people.

Mastitis in cattle is costly and ever-present. Prevention of this disease, largely a management problem, rests on the shoulders of the cow owner. Mastitis can be prevented. And as more and more farmers start aiming to produce Grade A fluid milk, it will have to be prevented.

The disease leptospirosis, recently found attacking both cattle and hogs in Iowa, gives symptoms similar to other diseases, making diagnosis difficult. This disease also is transmissible to humans. Rabies always is a threat—not only in cities but in rural areas. Our furbearing wildlife now is recognized as a potential reservoir of infection. But rabies can be controlled by dog and cat vaccination and destruction of infected wildlife and ownerless, unvaccinated cats and dogs.

On the Farm . . .

Probably many other diseases are of equal importance in some areas. These diseases shouldn't be overlooked. Yet with proper management, sanitation and immunization, most of them can be controlled. The troublesome problems in sheep mainly result from improper management—factors that can't be controlled by a nickel-plated syringe. Parasites and pregnancy disease can be controlled on the farm by proper management.

The anthrax problem bears watching. This disease may linger a long time in the soil of infected premises. So watch for symptoms of anthrax to prevent the so-called seeding down of premises.

Other diseases such as anaplasmosis, nervous diseases of swine, stomatitis in cattle and air sac infection in poultry are additional diseases confronting the livestock industry, offering challenges in their control. Chemical poisonings also are offering some problems in their control and diagnosis. Soybean oilmeal poisoning (trichlorethylene extracted) and X disease are samples of this type of loss that we haven't been confronted with before.

Similar Symptoms

Many of these diseases have similar symptoms and need an accurate diagnosis for effective treatment and control. An always sound suggestion—not always heeded—is to call your veterinarian at the first symptoms of disease. This will not only enable you to "nip the disease in the bud" but will also prevent spread of the disease to your neighbors.

Advancements have been made in many different categories. Yet, occasionally, we hear a statement such as "it seems like we have more livestock diseases today than we did in the 20's and 30's." Let's look back a bit and see why such a statement might be made.

Livestock numbers have increased greatly, and different methods of transportation have facilitated rapid movement of livestock (and their diseases) from farm to farm, state to state, and country to country. Veterinary science, too, has progressed. Diseases that probably existed years ago now are being readily diagnosed and are more readily publicized. Veterinary science and livestock production actually are advancing hand in hand.

It's true that we're plagued with livestock diseases. Livestock producers are well aware of the terrific losses that brucellosis, hog cholera, mastitis, baby pig losses, parasites and many others bring every year. Yet we're fortunate that we do have the knowledge and techniques available to control these diseases in our herds. A large share of responsibility for control rests on the shoulders of the livestock producer.

Many Controlled

Many livestock diseases have been controlled and some eradicated in the United States. Hoof and mouth disease, tick fever, tuberculosis, pleuropneumonia, glanders, dourine and fowl plague are examples of diseases that exist in other countries in a high percentage of herds. But they've been controlled in the United States. When vesicular exanthema broke out in Iowa in rapid-fire manner, the disease was quickly brought under control and eradicated in a few weeks through well-organized teamwork. Still, selfish interest prompted severe criticism of the endeavor.

What Else To Do?

Unfortunately, education of livestock producers in means of preventing livestock disease and restrictive laws to control diseases haven't kept up with the progress of veterinary science and disease control. We're plagued with stories of the purchase and sale of infected livestock, willful violations of quarantine laws, removal of identification from known infected animals, and failure to comply with proven means of disease control.

Livestock producers can't be policed, and they need not be policed to control diseases. They need only the necessary information and education to realize the seriousness of the diseases; they themselves will then do the policing.

The animal husbandman, the nutritionist and the veterinarian must work together in disease control. Their fields are closely related; one can't replace the other. Several of the animal diseases are communicable to man; control of these is not only of interest to livestock producers but to all consumers of animal products. The task of animal disease control is a big one. And we must start thinking in terms of eradication rather than control alone.

Livestock health suggestions for 1953:

- Use preventive measures for the control of disease. Use clean ground, don't overcrowd. Use immunization practices instead of trying to hit it "lucky."
- Let your veterinarian aid you in preventing disease rather than in just treating the sick.
- Buy only disease-free animals; insist on this and make it stick.
- Watch animals closely and report sick animals to your veterinarian immediately.